

Title of Chapter in Book: DDT

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Abstract: Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) is one of the best-known synthetic pesticides. It was first synthesized by German chemist Othmar Zeidler in 1874. However, it remained a laboratory curiosity until Swiss chemist Paul Hermann Müller discovered its insecticidal properties in 1939. DDT was adopted for widespread use in public health programs. It was the most effective agent known at eradicating diseases that are transmitted by insects and was the first synthetic organic substance used in large quantities for insect control.